

Group says awareness is key

BY NAJLA LISA NORWOOD
Register Contributor

The Student Health Advisory Council (SHAC) is an organization that looks at health issues from a student perspective. They serve as the connecting link between the students and N.C. A&T's Sebastian Health Center.

Last year the staff of the health center, along with some concerned students, helped to make SHAC an official student organization.

This organization is composed of students from different majors who have an interest in health education, care and prevention. They meet regularly on Monday nights to voice opinions of A&T's community.

Both Sharon Moye and Janet Lattimore, of Sebastian Health Center, agree that the Student Health Advisory Council encourages students to actively participate in designing programs on campus.

Lattimore describes the organization as "a student group that is helping to not only educate themselves on health issues, but their peers as well," she said.

One of the programs sponsored this semester by the council was the First Annual Women's Conference on Jan. 24. The theme of this program was "I Am a BRIGHT Woman." BRIGHT stood for Beautiful, Respectful, Intelligent, Gifted, Honored and Talented.

Lakisa Ballard developed the idea for the conference last year during her term as president of the SHAC.

The conference was a day-long event that was free to all A&T and Bennett College female students and staff. Sessions covered topics on diet and exercise, drug and alcohol abuse, self esteem, sexual assault, domestic violence, building healthy relationships and religion. Musical selections and educational material were also incorporated into the conference.

"Many of the topics for the conference were picked because A&T students had mentioned an interest in them," Ballard said.

Members of several sororities on campus gave assistance throughout the program. Funding through

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James Earl Jones to speak at A&T's spring commencement

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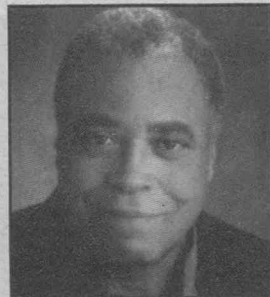
Award-winning actor James Earl Jones will be the keynote speaker for N.C. A&T's Annual Spring Commencement.

The ceremony will be held Saturday, May 8, in the Greensboro Coliseum. The lineup will begin at 8 a.m. and the processional for all participants at 8:30 a.m. More than 1,000 students will receive degrees.

Jones' acting career has won him

acclaim on both stage and screen. He is known to millions by his deep voice as Darth Vader in the "Star Wars" film series.

He began his career in the theater in the 1950's with the historic company that



James Earl Jones

incubated a generation of future black stars in Jean Genet's "The Blacks."

In 1959, he became affiliated with the New York Shakespeare Festival where he portrayed such characters as Othello and King Lear. In the 1960s he earned Daniel Blum's Theater World Award as Most Promising Personality in "Moon on a Rain Shawl," and garnered Obies for his performances in "Clandestine on the Morning Line," "Baal" and "Othello."

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A&T students explore sign language



Sharonda Eggleton/Photo editor

Students at N.C. A&T now have the option of learning sign language, the newest language course to be offered. Here, Elexter Benston, a junior graphic communication systems major, converses with Avril Smart, junior, psychology major.

BY TIA BRACEY
Register Contributor

With his index finger touching between his neck and his chest and pulling away in one upward motion and a smile on his face Curtis Brandon greets the class, "What's up?"

With no words spoken, only expressions, movements and hand-shapes, Brandon uses sign language to communicate. A nationally certified interpreter, Brandon teaches SPCH 258-01, American Sign Language at A&T.

According to www.aslinfo.com, an interpreter is a bilingual-bicultural professional who interprets while being sensitive to the environmen-

tal factors which foster the message and conducts him or herself in a professional ethical manner.

"I've been signing all of my life," says Brandon.

He is a CODA, child of deaf adults; therefore his first language was sign language. In Brandon's teachings he often refers to growing up as a hearing child with deaf parents. He shares with the class that being the oldest child he held a lot of responsibility growing up.

He talks about enduring stress at a young age because wherever his parents went, he had to go along also. "When it was time to purchase cars, our house, insurance or when

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A&T graduates honored

BY CHAD ROBERTS
Staff Writer

Vernell Stallings, Hilda Pinnix-Ragland and Elvin Bethea were all recently recognized as Distinguished Alumni at the 29th National Conference on Blacks in Higher Education. The conference was sponsored by the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education.

Stallings, Pinnix-Ragland and Bethea are all A&T graduates. Bethea played football for A&T for four years. After he graduated in 1968 he



Hilda Pinnix-Ragland

went on to play professional football for the Houston Oilers for 16 years. Bethea was recently inducted into the National Football League Hall of Fame. Bethea currently works for the Anheuser Busch government affairs division in Houston, Texas.

Pinnix-Ragland received her bachelor's degree in accounting from A&T and went on to get her master's degree from Duke University. In addition to serving on the N.C. A&T Foundation Board, Pinnix-Ragland is a member of the N.C. Board of Community Colleges and is the African-American Advisory Council Chair for N.C. State University.

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Aggies finish third in softball invitational Page 7

NEWS BRIEFS

U.S. hit kills 40 in Fallujah

FALLUJAH, Iraq - U.S. Marines in a fierce battle for this Sunni Muslim stronghold fired rockets that hit a mosque compound filled with worshippers Wednesday, and witnesses said as many as 40 people were killed. Shiite-inspired violence spread to key cities in Iraq.

The fighting in Fallujah and neighboring Ramadi, where commanders confirmed 12 Marines were killed late Tuesday, was part of an intensified uprising involving both Sunni and Shiites that now stretched from Kirkuk in the north to the far south. It was the heaviest fighting since Baghdad fell a year ago this week.

Convicted 9/11 suspect released

HAMBURG, Germany - The only person convicted in the Sept. 11 attacks was freed by a court Wednesday, pending the outcome of his retrial on charges of aiding the Hamburg al-Qaida cell that included three of the suicide pilots.

Mounir el Motassadeq, 30, smiled broadly as he left the Hamburg prison where he had been held since November 2001. He walked past reporters without comment before his friends and lawyer whisked him away in a car to an unknown location.

One killed as Miss. Amtrak derails

YAZOO CITY, Miss. - Amtrak's City of New Orleans train jumped its tracks in a swampy area of the Mississippi Delta, killing a 68-year-old passenger and injuring nearly 60 other people.

The nine-car train, traveling from New Orleans to Chicago, derailed Tuesday night near the town of Flora, tumbling five or six feet off a trestle approximately 25 miles north of Jackson.

Voters in Calif. deny Wal-Mart

INGLEWOOD, Calif. - Voters rejected a ballot measure that would have cleared the way for a colossal Wal-Mart in this Los Angeles suburb, one of several communities across the nation to resist the retailer's advances.

Activists who opposed the measure - which would have allowed Wal-Mart to skirt zoning, traffic and environmental reviews - said it would hurt the community by inviting the Supercenter to drive out small business and encourage sprawl.

Rowandans mark '94 genocide

KIGALI, Rwanda - Survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda on Wednesday buried the remains of hundreds of victims recovered from pit-latrines and mass graves to mark the 10th anniversary of the government-orchestrated slaughter that left more than 500,000 people dead.

The symbolic burial on a hillside marked the beginning of a week of mourning for the Tutsis and political moderates from the Hutu majority who were killed during the 100-day slaughter that apart this small central African nation.

Briefs from Associated Press reports.

Asheville man wants respect for the South

By CHERYL FARKAS
Register Contributor

An intelligent, well-dressed, distinguished, elder gentleman of African-American descent with a mission in his eyes and holding a Confederate flag stood on a street corner and captivated an audience of people that wanted to know more.

H.K. Edgerton stood on the corner of Dillion Street and Main Street in Jamestown,

proudly holding a confederate flag as passers by waved and beeped their horns in respect.

He was awaiting an evening appointment at the Jamestown Library as a key speaker. A car full of teenage girls drove by. "See you tonight at 7:30 sister," he said. "We wouldn't miss it, Wohoo!" As the girls drove off beeping their horn.

A middle-aged African-American woman, apparently angry at the statement he was making, boldly asked, "What are you doing?"

As he replied to her questions in a soft and respectful tone, a policeman pulled to the side of the road and approached Edgerton, asking, "Sir, do you have a permit to be here?"

Edgerton, excusing himself from the heated conversation with the woman, responded to the policeman.

"I am on government property, invited by the Sons of Confederate Veterans Association to be a key speaker in the library here shortly."

With a smile on his face, the policeman said, "Well, sir, I'm not as concerned about the permit, as I am your safety here."

"I have walked 1606.1 miles, in every major city from Asheville to Texas with this flag sir, but thank you for your concern," Edgerton said.

The policeman left and he continued his answers to the woman waiting. Oddly enough, the woman was smiling and saying, "Yes, I'm sure am glad we didn't leave our grandmother in Africa, it's hell there." She walked away, seemingly pleased with the answers she had received.

A former president of the NAACP in Asheville's Buncombe County Edgerton has walked with his flag in an appeal to generate peace, not the violence Southerners are familiar with when using a Confederate flag as a message.

The Jamestown Library on Feb. 10 was standing room only, and it was filled with veterans who took every word in as a confirmation of what they already knew.

Mostly men in their 50s and 60s filled the room and not one black person was present. Edgerton shared warm stories of growing up in the south and his Mama's words of wisdom. With an unspoken bond between them, the men nodded and laughed at the bold comments Edgerton's mother used in raising him and his siblings. Anyone without a deep education and knowledge of the South's history would have felt ignorant.

"I am tired of the white Christian men hanging their heads in guilt over slavery, the whole world was a part of slavery,

African countries made a fortune off of the trade of their own people," he said.

As a still quietness filled the room, the release of guilt and anger seemed to clear the air and open the room to unity.

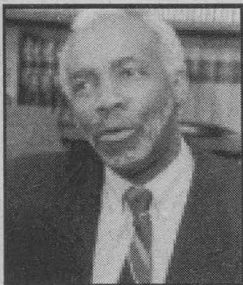
"Do you think for a second that God didn't have a plan when the black man was dropped right in the middle of the Bible Belt country? Whites taught blacks about religion. Which God would we be worshiping without them, right now? Muslim, and Muslims practice slavery today, but no one wants to talk about that," Edgerton said.

"The war wasn't just about freeing slaves, there were slaves in the North who got whipped too. The Constitution is what started the Civil War, taxes and states-rights, not slavery. We were fighting for liberty. There were black men in our Southern armies, both free and slaves, fighting to defend their country from an invasion. They deserve our respect; the forgotten veterans," Edgerton said.

"My ultimate goal is to seek reparations for all Southerners, which has driven a wedge between the whites and the blacks. The United States rebuilt Germany and Japan after the war, but the South has never been rebuilt. If you want to understand today's race problems, you have to know what went on during the Reconstruction. We need a Marshall Plan for the South and we need it now," he said.

"Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. said, sons of former slaves and slave owners will sit at the same table," Edgerton said. "He would want me here doing this, why should I put down my flag?" he said.

For more information, visit www.slrc-csa.org.



www.slrc-csa.org

H.K. Edgerton

JONES

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In the 1970s Jones appeared in numerous film and television projects. It was during this era that his voice became linked with "Star Wars." In 1989, he co-starred with Kevin Costner in the classic "Field of Dreams," and in 1990, "The Hunt for Red October," with Sean Connery and Alec Baldwin.

Some of his other film credits include "Cry the Beloved Country," "Grim Prairie Tales," "Convicts" and "Scorcher." Jones has narrated or appeared in more than 200 theatrical, film and television roles.

In 1991, Jones created the dynamic impassioned character of Gabriel Bird, an ex-police officer in the highly acclaimed Lorimar/ABC weekly series, "Gabriel's Fire." The series was about an ex-police officer who spent 20 years in prison for killing his partner and returned to the streets of Chicago as an investigative reporter.

Since then, Jones has made guest appearance on numerous television shows including "Stargate SG-1," "Frasier," "Homicide: Life on the Streets," "The Simpsons," "Will & Grace" and "Everwood."

Jones has won two Emmy Awards including Best Actor in a Drama Series for "Gabriel's Fire" and Best Supporting Actor in a mini-series or special for the TNT movie "Heat Wave."

He holds honorary doctorates from Yale, Princeton and the University of Michigan.

In December 2002, he was among five recipients of the Silver Jubilee Kennedy Center Honors.

Other awards include the National Medal of Arts from former U.S. President George H. Bush and the NAACP Hall of Fame Image Award for his contributions to the arts.

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GRADUATES SIGN

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For 25 years Vernell Stallings worked as associate director of operations for the A&T student union.

After his 2001 retirement he became the first A&T retiree to give a Charitable Retainer Uni-Trust (CRUT) donation to the school. Later that year A&T's new student union ballroom was named after him. Stallings graduated in 1964 with an industrial technology degree and he received his master's degree in 1971.

Last year Stallings received the Alumni Award of Excellence from A&T.



Elvin Bethea



Vernell Stallings

Continued from page 1

any financial situations arose I was with my parents interpreting."

Brandon coins himself an advocate for the deaf. He believes that there is a void in society that does not understand the needs or the trials that deaf people go through daily. Brandon exposes his class to the deaf culture by introducing them to people in the deaf community.

So far, he has brought in Abebe Asrat, a senior at Paige High School. On this day, Brandon's class operated on a question and answer format. Students asked questions, Brandon interpreted in sign language, Asrat answered and Brandon voiced his answers.

The students learned that Asrat and his sister were both deaf, but both of their parents were hearing. He is from Ethiopia, loves to draw and is anticipating his senior prom.

"I enjoyed having Asrat in class. It made me look at sign language in a different perspective," said junior elementary education major Britni Swann.

The class is composed of approximately 30 students from many different concentrations.

Ngozi Onianwah is a senior nursing major who is enrolled in the class. "I like the class. I'm learning. Unfortunately, I am personally unable to put as much into the class as I would like because of my nursing schedule," Onianwah said.

Onianwah describes learning sign language is as difficult as learning any other language; although, studying is harder because it is mostly visual where most classes don't focus on that. "We learn by a lot of repetition," Onianwah said.

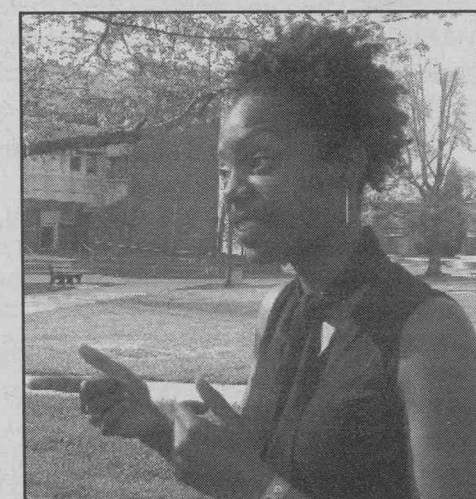
Also enrolled in the class is senior, business management major Deanna Thurston.

"I am very glad A&T is offering the sign language class now, and if there were a part two I would take it as well," she said.

Thurston desires to take other deaf communication courses to learn more, because at her job, Carmike 18, she interacts with the deaf community and it would be beneficial if she could better communicate with them versus always communicating with them by writing things down, she said.

"I have been given the gift to understand the deaf community. I could not circumvent it. It's a fundamental part of my being and I couldn't see me getting away," Brandon said. "It's inherited. I used to get angry and I resolved it by doing something about it," he said.

Brandon will continue to educate students at A&T about deaf culture by teaching SPCH 258, Sign Language I.



Sharonda Eggleton/Photo editor

More courses in sign language, such as being used by Avril Smart, may be offered later.


HEALTH

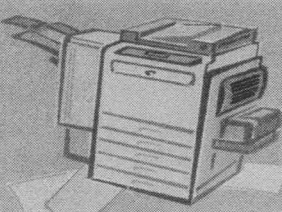

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grants enabled the conference to include refreshments, a complimentary lunch and a gift bag for all of the participants. The program concluded with evaluation forms being collected to ensure the future success of this type of conference at A&T, organizers said.

On Feb. 11, some of the participants of the conference were given an opportunity to attend a Spa Party at Dudley's Beauty Center & Spa. The Spa Party included a tour, a hair question and answer session, make-up tips and facials. In February the group held a Mocktail Monday which focused on the issue of college binge drinking.

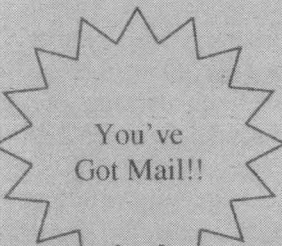
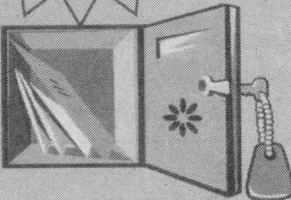
The SHAC held a health fair on March 30 which included a free health screening program. The organization's current president, Lillian Davis, encourages membership of others that are interested in health issues.





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KKK, quit your night jobs

BY DANIELLE SCRUGGS AND

SHANI O. HILTON, A.K.A.

"A CONCERNED COON"

Black College Wire

Dear Ku Klux Klan, Aryan Nation, neo-Nazis and other white supremacist organizations:

On behalf of the black population, I'd like to extend my thanks and gratitude for your sincere efforts to tear us down, destroy our image and simply mess us up.

However, I'd like to ease your minds by letting you know: WE'VE GOT THIS.

Feel free to enjoy a beer on your front porch, watch some reruns of the "Andy Griffith Show" and take a shot at the occasional coon who passes by.

I appreciate the 100-plus years you've dedicated to annihilating African Americans, but hey, I think it's time we gave it a shot.

We got off to a good start with "Shaft," "Foxy Brown" and every other movie starring a black person in the '70s. We took it a little further with the "got-to-get-up-out-the-ghetto" movies of the '80s and '90s, including "Menace II Society," "The Players Club" and "New Jack City."

Also, with the advent of gangsta rap, we made it possible for your kind to enjoy our foibles. Who can forget such classics as "B*****s Ain't Sh*t," "F**k the Police," and "2 of Amerikaz Most Wanted"?

But lately, we've really been giving it our all! BET (Black Exploitation Television) has made it possible for the whole world to see "the way we ball," while we're "stompin' in our Air Force Ones," and watching the females of our race "shake it like a salt shaker / Polaroid picture / fast." Simply put, everyone can see how just easily entertained we are.

Ah, and good old UPN (U Pick a Negro)! What with "The Parkers," "Girlfriends," "Half and Half" and "One on One," we get the opportunity to act a fool twice a week! Who needs high drama when you've got coons, mummies and oversexed jezebels to laugh at for hours at a time?

These preconceptions make your job SO much easier, don't ya' think?

And when we go to work, employers are justified in not promoting us, since we were up so late watching BET's "Uncut" that we couldn't make it to work on time. Besides, if you put a black man in a high position, he's sure to rape every white female in sight, tap every black woman's posterior and decorate his office with "throwback" jerseys and pictures of naked Janet Jackson.

Also, there is our utter lack of family values and morals. Black women usually have six kids, and at least eight baby-daddies, not to mention a bad weave and four-inch fingernails. And though you can count on none of those daddies living in the same house, we'll bet they all live on the same block.

Of course, on Sundays, we head to church. For six hours. Because that's what black people do. We pray to "Tha Man Upstairz" to forgive us for shaking it up all night at the club. But now, we have the Church of James!

The NBA's LeBron James, that is. He's another role model for our children. And we tell our babies that it IS realistic to want to be like a boy who received \$90 million for doing absolutely nothing but endorsing Nike shoes. Allen Iverson, Tracy McGrady, Kobe Bryant (and look what happened to him -- isn't that encouraging?) and the rest of King James' disciples are shining examples of the black American dream: getting a lot while doing nothing to serve society. Kinda like affirmative action!

Although, our supremacist friends, there is one thing you can do. Take out Oprah. She's making it difficult for us to maintain our image as shiftless, uneducated and poor. She and Star Jones. And Denzel. And Mekhi. And Blair. Halle. Dr. Benjamin Carson, Sharpton, Powell, Condi, Mandela, Archbishop Tutu -- and the Huxtables.

Danielle Scruggs and Shani O. Hilton, students at Howard University, write for *The Hilltop*.

Is A&T responding to the spread of AIDS?

BY MEGHAN McDERMOTT

Guest Commentary

With the talk of AIDS on campus, it makes me wonder if the university really cares about the health of their students.

Yes, the college has taken small seemingly unnoticeable steps to raise awareness, but it is not helping. If there is an outbreak of AIDS or HIV on campus the students have a right to know. Some students refuse to face the fact that they are at risk because they do not feel that there is a threat on A&T's campus. Yes, part of the problem is the student's fault for not looking out for themselves, but the college should still be responsible for telling their students about a major health risk spreading around campus.

The university made a small effort to explain the risk of AIDS on campus by having an Aggie AIDS Week. The events consist of an HIV/AIDS panel discussion, HIV/AIDS testing and an AIDS candle walk. Putting a few flyers up in a few dorms and classroom buildings is not promoting an event of this importance.

A step was also taken by The Register to raise AIDS awareness. The school newspaper ran a guest commentary by Dr. Peter Leone in their April 1 issue. Unfortunately though my discussions with my fellow students it does not seem that they read this important article.

The students I talked to were unaware of the sudden increase of AIDS and HIV infection among college students. Also they think that the test for HIV will not detect the virus until around six months after the infection takes place.

According to Dr. Leone, though a primary HIV test can detect HIV within one to two weeks after an individual is infected and the traditional test can detect the virus with in eight to 12 weeks after infection.

Some students were also saying that HIV testing is not confidential and that the police have a record of everyone who has AIDS, which Dr. Leone says is false. There is no way that the police have a record of people with AIDS because that would be a violation of the privacy rights which is against the law. Students on campus are unaware of the danger of AIDS.

Think about this for a minute, if a female slept with 10 males, that is 11 students that are already infected.

Now if each one of those students sleeps with just one other person, which is highly unlikely in today's society, the number quickly jumps to 22 students. Most classes on campus (with the exception of lecture classes) are supposed to be limited to about 25 students. That is almost a whole classroom full of students that are infected. Now if the original number of males had been 15, it would have started with 16 students and then that could have quickly grew to 32 students. That would amount to all of the students in one of my classes.

In the world we live in today most young adults will come into sexual contact with more than two people. All college students have had a health class, either in high school or in college.

Unfortunately, we see everyday that the information given in these classes are not being absorbed by young adults. The teachers can show pictures of horrible sexually transmitted diseases and tell stories about the painful life people with AIDS live with, but it is still being ignored. The majority of students seem to be more preoccupied with not having children than not getting an STD. Just because a female is on birth control doesn't mean she is disease free.

If there is a major threat to student health on campus the students have a right to know. "Knowledge is power" and in order for students to fight back against this deadly threat they must be informed about what is happening around them. How can you fight an enemy that you do not know exists?

Next year the college is admitting more freshmen than ever which will likely increase the number of students infected with HIV or AIDS if the school does nothing because the freshmen will be unaware of the risk of AIDS on this campus.

Raising awareness of AIDS in general is a small step, but a better way is to let the students know the risk here at campus.

The school puts on a false face of pretending to care about their students, if the students really were the school's number one concern they would inform the students about the risks here on campus and tell them what is going on.

McDermott is a freshman, architectural engineering major from Elizabeth City, N.C.

Letters to the editor

are welcomed by

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Letter To The Editor

Affirmative action: principal or pragmatism

No issue better reveals the American tension between principal and pragmatism than the debate over affirmative action.

However, I believe this may have been true when affirmative action began in the late 1960s, I believe it was....but I also believe this is not true today, and hasn't been for some time.

Now the tension is not between principal and pragmatism, but principal: the old bed rock principal that everyone should be judged "without regard" to race, national origin, religion, or social status, is being challenged by the new diversity principal that positively requires "taking race into account" in all aspects of American life and law.

I believe that principal is far more important than policy, however the decision that the court reached in the Michigan cases will be reasoning that principal is more important than policy. Moreover, I believe that good affirmative action does and de-emphasizing the bad. As pragmatic public policy, it is easy to show that the benefits of affirmative action far outweigh its social or individual costs.

What affirmative action does is ensure the integration of our best universities and thereby promotes (if indirectly) a heterogeneous professional elite. In conjunction with anti-discrimination laws, it has directly fostered the growth of an African American and Latino middle class.

Our best universities would, in the absence of racial preferences, be segregated? If creation into the middle class is the object, why preferences instead of say, direct cash grants, racial tax exemptions, etc? This sort of argument that affirmative action "works" always reminds me of the observation that at least Mussolini got the trains running on time.

Corporate America has also embraced the policy, mostly by choice. As a result, minorities make up a large part of the middle and top ranks at many of the country's most recognizable firms. On Fortune magazine's list of the "50 Best companies for minorities," for example, 24 percent of officials and managers are minorities.

Affirmative action has transformed the American military, making it the most ethnically varied at all levels of all the world's great forces. And, along with changing ethnic and racial attitudes, affirmative action has helped promote a powerful global popular culture, many areas of which are dominated by minorities.

If preferences have been so successful, why are they still needed? Who are those minorities? Asians? One can usually count on preferentialists to count Asians when they are needed to bolster an argument, and to discount them when preferences are being distributed. Affirmative action as promoter of "a powerful global popular culture"?!

Nevertheless, there are a lot of negative achievements, that is what affirmative action has spread us, are hard to prove. But it is surely reasonable to attribute the relative infrequency of ethnic or racial riots in America to the presence of minority leadership in many of the nation's mainstream institutions. Proving a negative is indeed

hard, but is riot insurance a good justification for preferences? Certainly some think so. I have heard Jesse Jackson say on CNN attributing the rioting in Benton Harbor, Mich., to anger over criticism of preferences at the University of Mich. Really? Affirmative action causing violence?

There is indeed costs at the individual level, borne by those whites who may not have gained places or jobs as a result of preferences for minorities.

But nearly all research indicates that these costs are minuscule. Repeated surveys indicate that no more than 7 percent of Americans of European heritage claim to have been adversely affected by affirmative action programs, and it has been shown that affirmative action reduces the chances of whites getting into top colleges by 1.5 percentage points. Minuscule?

Lets assume that these numbers are correct and that "Americans of European heritage" means "whites." According to the 2000 Census there are roughly 211,500,000 whites in the U.S. Thus 7 percent of them would amount to about 15 million people claiming to have been affected adversely.

Of course, many of those whites are too young to have experienced such effects, or at least to respond to surveys, and so the percentage of adults who have may well be much higher. Finally, numbers such as these don't reveal the amount of residual anger and bitterness such "adverse effects" leave behind.

So much for achievements, for all its achievements, however, many critics fear that affirmative action violates fundamental principals that have guided this country. It is indeed difficult to reconcile affirmative action with the nation's manifest ideals of individualism and merit-based on competition. But America's history is replete with just such pragmatic fudging of these ideals.

Yet these critics miss a more compelling, and more subtle argument against affirmative action. In spite of its benefits, there are serious problems in the long run for its beneficiaries if affirmative action is not directly modified. I believe that preferences must be revised, while diversity is a goal that deserves to be pursued in its own right, it was a major error for African American leaders to have advocated it as the main justification for affirmative action.

In doing so, they greatly expanded the number of groups entitled to preferences including millions of immigrants whose claims on the nation pale in comparison to those who have been historically discriminated against. Such a development understandably alarmed many whites who were otherwise prepared to turn a pragmatic blind eye to their principal concerns about affirmative action.

Using diversity as a rationale for affirmative action also distorts the aims of affirmative action. The original, morally incontestable goal of the policy was the integration of African Americans in all important areas of public and private sectors from which they had been historically excluded. But if diversity is the goal, the purpose of affirmative

action shifts from improving the conditions of blacks to transforming America into a multiracial society.

Thus, the pursuit of inclusion is replaced by the celebration of separate identities. We've compromised our principals so often in so many areas, what's the big deal about compromising our principal against racial discrimination? Well for one thing I have always argued race is, and should remain, a "suspect classification."

Discriminating on the basis of race is simply not the same as discriminating for or against tobacco growers, oil well owners, etc. No matter how unappealing examples of that sort of discrimination may be. If that weren't true, there would be no point to civil rights laws outlawing racial discrimination.

Currently, the conflict between advocates of the color-blind non-discrimination principal and those who have come to believe that the presence of "diversity" is more compelling than the absence of discrimination can't be resolved by compromise, because the competing principles are irreconcilable.

But if the preferentialists would reconsider their rejection of the non-discrimination principals, then some of us color blinders may well be willing to consider some specific temporary (a crucial requirement) "pragmatic" compromises.

Javal Kimani Demens is a junior, political science major at N.C. A&T from Columbia, S.C.

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Award-winning poet to read her work at A&T

BY WHITNEY MACKOBI
Register Contributor

One of the nation's most distinguished African American poets and memoirists, Professor Toi Derricotte will be on the campus on N.C. A&T State University reading her works on Wednesday, April 14, at 7 p.m. in the New Classroom Building auditorium.



Toi Derricotte

Preceding Derricotte at 6:30 p.m., members of A&T's spoken word troupe (Amaris V. Howard and Dennis L. Winston) will perform for the opening of this event. Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

Derricotte has published four books of poetry, which include "Natural Birth," "The Empress of Death House," "Captivity" and "Tender," which was awarded the Paterson Poetry Prize in 1998. Also her 1998 memoir, "Black Notebooks," was chosen as a New York Times Notable Book.

She has received numerous awards including two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts (1985 and 1990)

and the prestigious Pushcart Prizes in 1989 and 1998.

Derricotte leads workshops throughout the country and is a co-founder of Cave Canem, a workshop retreat for African American poets. She has taught graduate creative writing programs at different universities all over the country. She is currently on the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh, where she is an English professor.

For more information regarding this event contact Professor Anjail Rashida Ahmad in the English Department at 334- 7711 ext.2370 or arahmad@ncat.edu.

Mary J. Blige hits the road with Love & Life Tour

FROM A PRESS RELEASE

Santa Monica, Calif. - Grammy award winner Mary J. Blige will hit the road on the Love & Life Tour later this month.

Supported by Musiq Soulchild and Glen Lewis, this 18-city tour will kick off at the Lyric Theatre in Baltimore on April 12.

The Queen of Hip Hop Soul will perform hits that have influenced music for over a decade. Six studio albums and one live collection later, Blige still delivers that electrifying performance to work your head, heart and hips.

She is capable of conveying heartache and happiness in a single musical moment. More than a vocalist, she is an accomplished artist, actress, and humanitarian who simply loves life.

Fans will receive exclusive behind the scenes footage on Marytv.com. The site will continue to be updated with special highlights while she is on the road.

Love & Life tour dates on the East Coast

April 12	Baltimore	Lyric Theatre
April 13	Baltimore	Lyric Theatre
April 15	Detroit	Fox Theatre
April 16	Detroit	Fox Theatre
April 18	Philadelphia	Tower Theatre
April 19	Philadelphia	Tower Theatre
April 20	Hartford, Conn.	Oakdale (tentative)
April 22	New York	Radio City
April 23	New York	Radio City
April 24	Boston	Wang Center
April 26	Washington	Constitution Hall
April 27	Washington	Constitution Hall
April 28	Richmond, Va.	Landmark Theatre
(tentative)		
April 29	Cleveland	State Theatre
May 1	Chicago	Arie Crown
May 2	Chicago	Arie Crown

The Rebirth of AggieFest 2004

April 12-18

Monday, April 12

Third Annual Pan Hellenic Greek Basketball Tournament

Moore Gym

5 p.m.

Admission: Free

Tuesday, April 13

"The Aggie Hot Spot"

The First Ever Battle of the Residence Halls Step Show

Featuring Special Guests: The Glory Phi Steppers and

The Iota Zeta Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi

7 p.m.

Admission: Free (tickets available at the ticket office)

Wednesday, April 14

The Hip Hop Summit

McNair Auditorium

Featuring K.R.S. ONE

7 p.m.

Thursday, April 15

The Senior Class and Sharpe Persuits Presents:

"The 4th Annual Fashion Show Competition"

Corbett Gymnasium

7 p.m.

Admission: \$5 for A&T Students, \$7 (day of show), \$10 General Public

Friday, April 16

The A&T Pan Hellenic Council in association with the SGA Presents:

The Aggiefest Stepshow 04'

Corbett Gymnasium

7 p.m.

Admission: \$7 A&T Students, \$10 General Public

Saturday, April 17

YARDFEST 04'

Aggiefest Concert

Featuring: The Collective 7, Floetry, and Kanye West

8 p.m.

Admission: Free to A&T Students w/ student ID, \$10 General Public

Sunday, April 18

The Alpha Mu Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Presents:

C.O.D.E. R.E.D

Community Festival

12-5 p.m.

Aggie Stadium

Free Admission, Free Food, and Fun

Miss North Carolina A&T Presents:

The Junior-Senior Prom 2004

"Remember the Times"

8 p.m.

The Empire Room

Admission: \$5 Singles, \$10 Couples

All tickets available at the ticket office

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Motorsports students at A&T say: 'The pit is it'

BY DARLENE F. EAST

Register Contributor

Four motorsports technology students at A&T are following in the footsteps of four other A&T students who helped end social injustice. These student, however, are helping NASCAR to become more diverse.

Like their predecessors, Walkeen Terrell Livingston, Amar A. Johnson, Robert G. Johnson IV and Michael Smith have become pioneers for other A&T students and African Americans in NASCAR motorsports.

These four students have taken courses in A&T's six-course Pit Crew Certification Program that began fall 2001 and trains students for pit crew work. The certification is in addition to their major concentration.

In January, Livingston, a senior in manufacturing systems, began an all-expense-paid internship with Richard Petty Enterprises in Randleman, N.C. as a pit practice coordinator and tire changer. He will finish in September 2004.

His personal goals are to become a fulltime Winston Cup tire changer and one day become a crew chief.

Livingston had good things to say about A&T's motorsports program.

"More students should inquire about taking courses in our motorsports program," Livingston said. "The program provides overall information about NASCAR, jobs that are available and it is a new avenue for African Americans to explore."

Thurman Exum, lead motorsports instructor and advisor for the motorsports technology program, agrees with Livingston.

"There are a lot of jobs and careers available in NASCAR. Motorsports NASCAR happens to be one division in NASCAR," said Exum. "One team might have anywhere between 300 to 400 people who are employed in any

number of positions to prepare for a race."

In early January, 12 A&T students participated in a crews skills competition sponsored by Access Marketing and Communications in cooperation with NASCAR at the 5 Off 5 On Race Team Performance Center in Mooresville, N.C.

The purpose of the competition was to screen candidates for pit crew positions and drivers in NASCAR's diversity program. Only six participants would receive offers in the program.

"There were 35 candidates from all parts of the United States," Exum said. "Some were high school and college students and others business professionals, all competing for an opportunity to get into NASCAR."

A&T had six students to participate in second interviews. Robert Johnson and Amar Johnson were successful participants.

Amar Johnson, a 2002 graduate of A&T in manufacturing systems and a member of the football team, is participating in an eight-week training class for jackman at the 5 Off 5 On Race Team Performance Center.

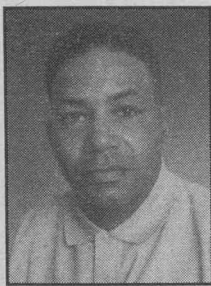
Upon completion of the training program, Amar Johnson will be a jackman for the #8 truck in the 2004 Craftsman Truck series in NASCAR for Bobby Hamilton Racing (BHR), in Lebanon, Tenn.

"I would recommend A&T's program to other students," Amar Johnson said. "The skills that you learn are marketable; they provide different avenues for careers and give you more opportunities for jobs."

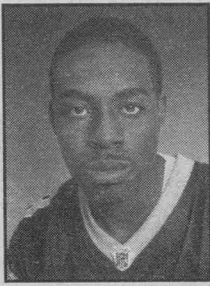
Amar Johnson's future goals are to drive a car and own his racing team. "One of the strengths of the program is that it allows A&T students to become trailblazers."

Robert Johnson, who will graduate in May with a degree in manufacturing systems, became interested in A&T's motorsports program when he saw the Motorsports Center while touring the campus.

He will be a member of the pit crew and racecar painter beginning June 1 with Jack Roush Racing.



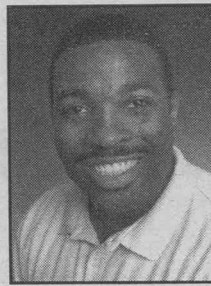
Robert Johnson



Michael Smith



Walkeen Livingston



Amar Johnson



Desiree Charleston

"I am 50 now, and I have been trying to get into NASCAR for over 30 years," Robert Johnson said. "It was always my goal; it has just taken this long to become a reality."

The program is open to students in all disciplines, male and female. Currently, there are three females in the program of approximately 50 students.

Desiree Charleston, a freshman, was the only female to participate in the crews' skills competition. She is as enthusiastic about the program as her male peers.

Charleston believes that more students should enroll in the motorsports program.

"They are missing out on what happens in motorsports," she said. "It is the perfect place to make money, find your niche and go with it."

She is an electronics and computers major. Robert Johnson recruited her for the program.

The fourth student offered a pit crew position is Smith, a junior industrial engineering major. On May 1, he will begin a one-year co-op program for crew chief training with Heitz Motors Sports in Asheville, N.C.

Heitz Motor Sports, known for drag

racing, is a member of the International Hot Rod Association (IHRA).

Smith will train for crew chief on "Christine" a '57 Plymouth named after the evil-hearted '58 Plymouth in the movie "Christine" that had the power to regenerate itself.

He will travel with the team when it is in competition during the Professional Modified (ProMod) drag racing tours.

"It is great that we are getting the opportunity to have hands-on training in the racing world through A&T's motorsports program," Smith said. "I hope to become a pioneer for African Americans in the industry as a crew chief."

Four years ago Chancellor James Renick and David Hoard, vice chancellor for Development and University Relations, charged Exum and other faculty members to develop a program for motorsports professionals.

Special attention was to be given to pit crew positions to give African Americans visibility in NASCAR industry.

"I think what these students have accomplished speaks very well for A&T's motorsports technology program," Exum said.

CLARIFICATION

The One Love Festival will be from 4-9 p.m. April 22 in the Oberyemeyer parking lot across from the bookstore.

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EYE ON CRIME

These events were reported to N.C.A&T's Campus Police Department during the week of March 29- April 5:

According to police reports:

Weapons on Campus

Bluford Library

A library security officer reported that he discovered a small pocket knife in a student's pocketbook. The knife was seized and secured by University Police Department officers. No criminal charges have been filed.

Larceny

Scott Hall A

A student/resident reported that person(s) unknown entered his unsecured room and removed personal property valued at \$1,570. There are neither witnesses nor suspects in this case.

Hazing

Moore Gym

University Police Department officers reported physical contact between fraternity members during the Spring Greek Event. There were no reported injuries.

Communicating Threats

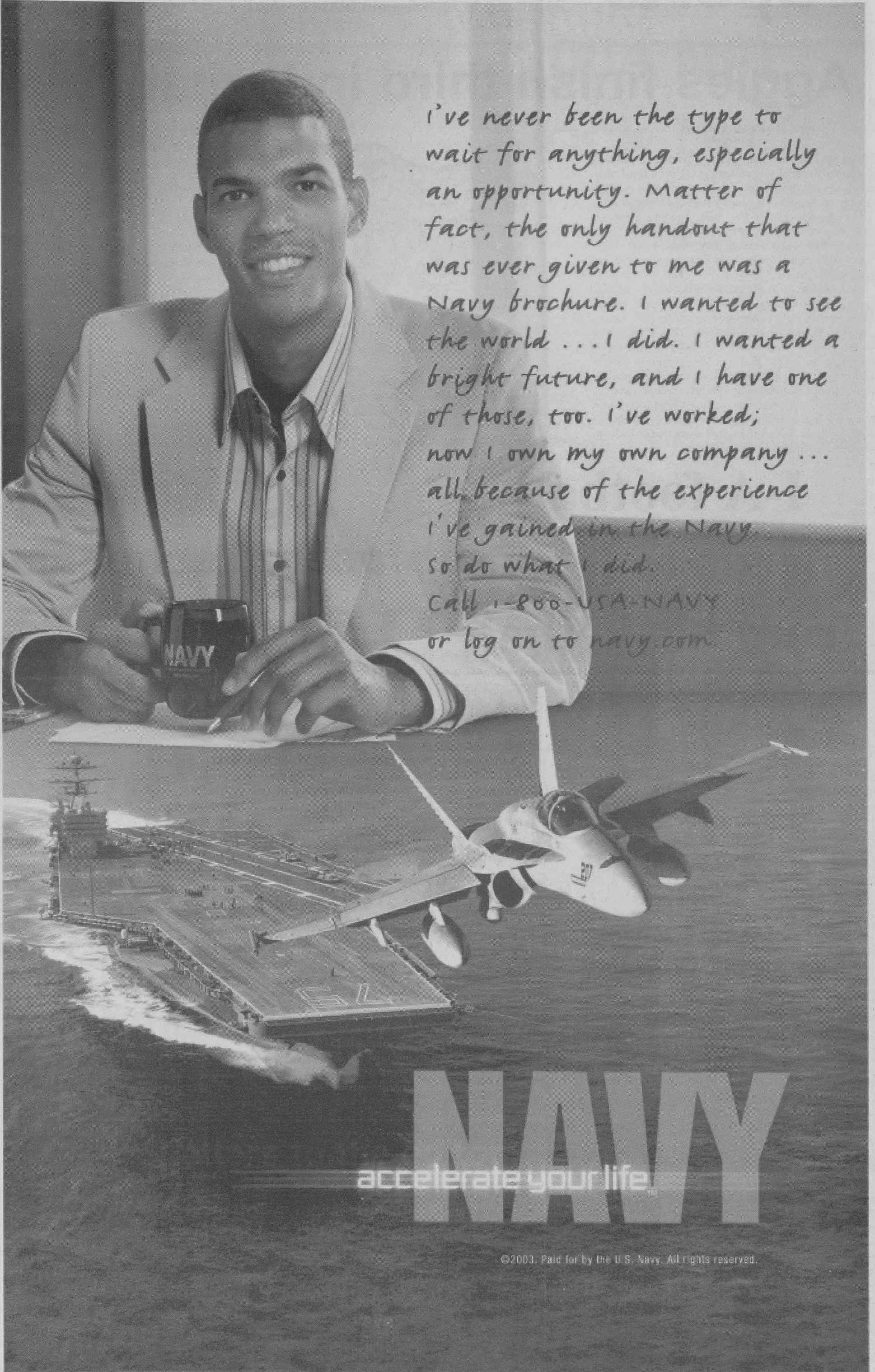
New Classroom Building

A student reported that he was threatened by an unknown student about an incident that occurred a couple of years ago. There is suspect information.

Armed Robbery

Scott Hall C

A student reported that he was robbed at gun point while in his room. The student was not injured. There is a witness and suspect information.



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Aggies finish third in Invitational

By CHAD ROBERTS
Staff Reporter

The A&T softball team went 2-2 over the weekend's Aggie Invitational tournament, good for a third place finish overall. Winthrop University won the championship on Saturday by beating Belmont College 2-0.

The Aggies (15-27) lost their opening game on Friday to eventual runner-up Belmont 5-4 in extra innings. Belmont's winning run came in on Angie Tawwater's eighth-inning bunt that scored third baseman Jess Seymore.

Centerfielder Erin Mullen led Belmont on offense, going 4-for-4 with an RBI and a run scored. Mandy Miles pitched eight innings and struck out two batters.

For the Aggies, centerfielder Adia Dial went 2-for-3 at the plate, scored a run and drove in two more. Latronda Anderson took the loss, giving up six hits and three runs in 4.2 innings. Lorraine Geiger pitched three innings, surrendering four hits and two runs.

In the second game, the Winthrop Eagles squeezed out a 3-2 win over the Aggies behind the pitching of Kelli Johnson. Johnson pitched a one-hitter with no earned runs and seven strikeouts.



Tabitha Veney singled and scored a run for the Aggies. In the loss, Latronda Anderson pitched a complete game with five strikeouts and no walks.

The Aggies were able to rebound on Saturday by winning two games against Morgan State. Lorraine

Geiger pitched in the first game, an 11-5 A&T victory. Geiger (4-4) gave up five runs and struck out two in seven innings of work.

Sharmain Murphy, Tabitha Veney and Latronda Anderson combined for nine hits, four runs and seven RBI's for A&T.

Morgan State (10-14) was led by catcher Aubrey Love, who went 2-for-2 with a run scored and two RBI's. Keyana Smith took the loss, giving up 16 hits and 11 runs (seven earned) in seven innings of work.

In Saturday's second game against Morgan State, Anderson (7-17) pitched a complete game three-hitter with eight strikeouts and only two walks. She also went 2-for-3 at the plate with an RBI triple and a run scored. Murphy, batting in the designated hitter slot, went 2-for-2.

Morgan State's Grace Glenn struck out five in the loss. Veronica Brown, Aloise Shepherd and Keyana Smith each had a hit for the Lady Bears.

Anderson and Murphy were selected to the all-tournament team for their efforts.

A&T is now 15-27 overall and 4-2 in the MEAC.

I-A football needs to learn from basketball

COMMENTARY BY GREGORY BOND
Sports Editor

Another year, another great college basketball tournament ended with some great memories.

I-A college football should take notes from college basketball on how to finally get one national championship team.

College football has used the ESPN/USA Today polls and the Associated Press polls for years to decide on the national championships.

After numerous times the polls has split the national championship, the NCAA brought up a formula to decide on how to solve the problem. The Bowl Championship Series (BCS) was created for that purpose.

The BCS uses the formula that includes strength of schedule, wins and losses, opponents' record and margin of victories. The BCS has automatic berths with the ACC, Big East, Big 12, Big 10 and Southeastern Conference.

The top two teams from the BCS will face off for the national title. The winner of the national championship game will have all of the Associated Press votes no matter what happens to the other games.

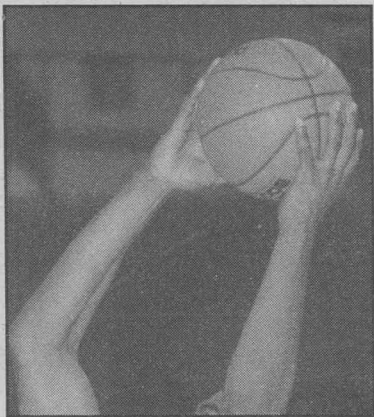
The BCS has been inconsistent with picking of the two teams. Three of the last four championship games came out with a lot of controversy, including having a split national championship with LSU and University of Southern Cal last season.

The big question is what we should do with the problem?

The NCAA cannot go back to the old way of using the two polls again.

College football should use what Division III, Division II, Division I-AA football and college basketball should do. The need to have a playoff system.

One of the biggest complaints about the BCS is the fact small schools like TCU, Marshall or Southern Illinois cannot have a fair shot at the national championship.



This is a way the schools can still make their money from the bowls and the small conference schools can get their shot at the title.

First, whoever wins the conference title should automatically be in the playoffs - whether it's the PAC-10, WAC or the MAC.

They should have an

opportunity to play for the national title no matter how small their conference is.

Second, there should be some at-large bids to even out the brackets.

For the bowl games, they should use the bowls as the site for the playoffs. The schools make the money and the bowl committees get the publicity they wanted.

The lower division college football uses the playoff system and has one national champion. In college basketball, they have that one Cinderella team which upsets the top-seeded schools.

I-A college football should take lessons from the other collegiate sports. Until then, we should not be surprised if we have another split national champions.

2004 Aggie football schedule

Here is the schedule for the 2004 football season

September 4 - North Carolina Central (Aggie-Eagle Classic)

September 11 - Alcorn State at Chicago (Solider Field)

September 18 - Wake Forest (Away)

September 25 - Elon (Home)

October 2 - Norfolk State (Away)

October 9 - Morgan State (Home) (Homecoming)

October 16 - Delaware State (Away)

October 23 - Howard (Home)

October 30 - Bethune-Cookman (Home)

November 6 - Open

November 13 - Hampton (Away)

November 20 - South Carolina State (TBA)

Sports Briefs

Lady Aggies seek the bowling title

The Lady Aggies bowling team will compete for the NCAA Women's Bowling Championship. Watch for coverage of the event beginning Sunday afternoon, April 11, on ESPN2.

Johnson Puts Focus on Golf at Augusta

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) - Augusta National chairman Hootie Johnson said his club and the Masters are moving on, eager to get past the contentious women's issues that enveloped the tournament last year. "I really think the American public is ready for us to talk about golf," Johnson said Wednesday at his annual news conference, deflecting the first of several questions about the club's lack of a female member.

Royals Place Relaford on Disabled List

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) - The Kansas City Royals put infielder Desi Relaford on the 15-day disabled list Wednesday and called up left-hander Jaime Cerda from Triple-A Omaha. Relaford strained his left hamstring while running out a base hit in the season opener on Monday against Chicago. Cerda was 1-0 with a 6.92 ERA in nine appearances in spring training.

We Said It!



1. Which round would you pick Maurice Clarett in the NFL Draft?

Greg - I see him being drafted in the fourth round or fifth because of his attitude and lack of experience.

Julius - I think that with the good workout he just had behind closed doors that he may have increased his stock. I think that he probably will go in early or late second round.

Chad - There are at least four other backs I would choose before Clarett, so I'd say he goes no earlier than the third round.

2. What were your thoughts of the Uconn's victory over Georgia Tech?

Greg - That was the biggest blowout in the NCAA Championship game in my entire life. I stopped watching the game at halftime.

Julius - I wasn't surprised because I picked Uconn to win it all, but it was lopsided and behind the play of Gordon and Okafor, the Huskies were unstoppable.

Chad - Georgia Tech did a good job of making the final score respectable, because Uconn was really laying it on them for most of the game.

3. Who is your NBA MVP?

Greg - Finally Kevin Garnett will finally win the MVP. It should have gone to him last season.

Julius - Kevin Garnett without a doubt is the MVP of the league.

Chad - My thoughts exactly.

4. Which NBA team disappointed you the most this season?

Greg - The Toronto Raptors disappointed me the most! With Vince Carter, Jalen Rose, Chris Bosh being hurt and no big man on defense. Some people thought this team would be back at the top.

Julius - The Philadelphia 76ers disappointed me the most because they play without any intensity and let the Allen Iverson topics distract them. No distractions next year, though, because Iverson will be shipped out of Philly.

Chad - The most disappointing team has been the Sacramento Kings since Chris Webber came back and started shooting jump shots. I wouldn't be surprised if Webber gets benched or he plays and the Kings get bounced out of the playoffs.

2004 NFL Mock Draft

BY GREGORY BOND
Sports Editor

1. **San Diego Chargers** - Eli Manning (QB, Senior, Ole Miss) If the Giants do not give the Chargers a trade offer, Manning will be going to San Diego.

2. **Oakland Raiders** - Larry Fitzgerald (WR, Sophomore, Pittsburgh) Possibly the best wide receiver in the draft. He will learn quickly from Jerry Rice and Tim Brown.

3. **Arizona Cardinals** - Ben Roethlisberger (QB, Senior, Miami OH) New head coach Dennis Green will not let Roethlisberger slip away from them. He will be great with Anquan Boldin.

4. **New York Giants** - Robert Gallery (OT, Senior, Iowa) The Giants need to protect quarterback Kerry Collins. Gallery will start in the beginning of the season.

5. **Washington Redskins** - Tommie Harris (DT, Junior, Oklahoma) The Redskins need help on the defensive line. Harris will get an opportunity to give Washington the help they need.

6. **Detroit Lions** - Steven Jackson (RB, Junior, Oregon State) With the Lions cutting James Stewart being cut, the Jackson will fit perfectly within the system.

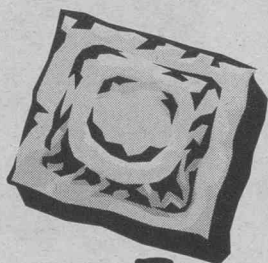
7. **Cleveland Browns** - Kellen Winslow Jr. (TE, Junior, Miami) A great athlete like his father. Should give quarterback Jeff Garcia some help in the receiving corp.

8. **Atlanta Falcons** - Sean Taylor (S, Junior, Miami) Could be another Hurricane star. The Falcons need to boost their secondary.

9. **Jacksonville Jaguars** - Roy Williams (WR, Senior, Texas) Pound for pound one of the top receivers in the draft. Has size and speed to back it up.

10. **Houston Texans** - Kenschi Udeze (DE, Junior, USC) Udeze had 16.5 sacks last year for the National Champions.

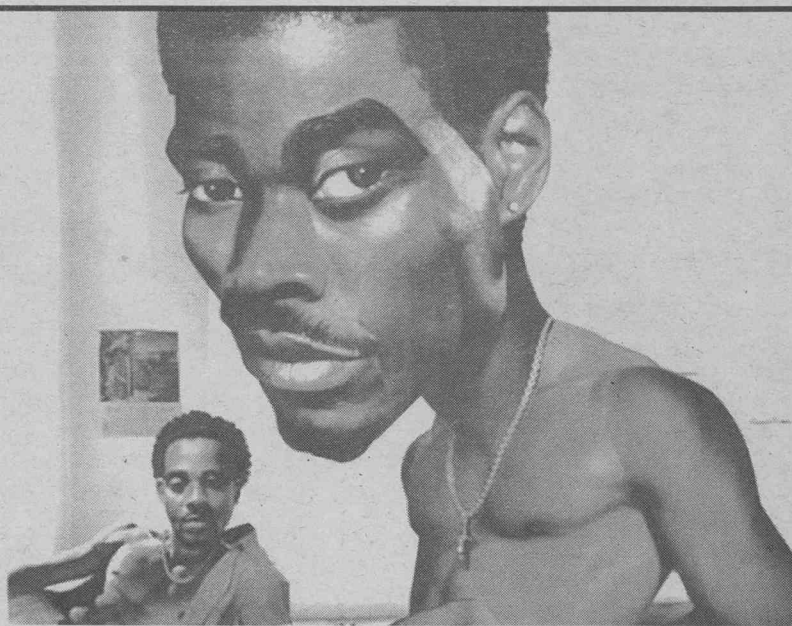
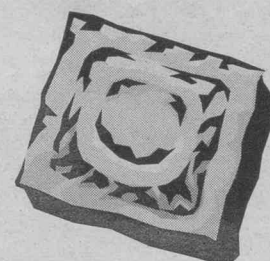
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